

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

22 AUGUST 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam

a. South Vietnam is outwardly calm this morning with the army maintaining a tight security lid under the martial law decree.

b. The authorities are seeking to justify the crackdown on the grounds that government troops were beginning to be disaffected by the Buddhist campaign. They also argue the Viet Cong had penetrated the Buddhist movement. [REDACTED]
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c. The well-coordinated moves by the military throughout the country showed good prior planning. US officials have been told that Diem ordered the action at the request of a group of generals.

d. Present relationships among Diem, the generals, and Nhu are not clear. Statements being broadcast in the name of the military have a strong Nhu flavor, and Nhu is known to have harangued the generals on the need for firm government action. Some of the generals could be working with him.

(Cont'd)

e. The martial law commander, Major General Tran Van Don, says everything possible is being done to keep a maximum number of troops fighting the Viet Cong. The US Military Attaché feels, however, that operations will be affected by the diversion of troops to maintaining martial law.

f. A late, unconfirmed press report says that Tran Van Chuong, South Vietnam's ambassador to the US, Madame Nhu's father and a strong critic of Diem and the Nhu's, has been relieved of his post.

2. UN-Yemen

a. U Thant is rather gloomy over the outlook for the UN observation mission in Yemen.

b. The Secretary General is extremely sensitive about the resignation of the unstable Von Horn and his threat "to blow the lid off the whole operation." Indian General Rikhye who has just returned from the Congo is to take over at least temporarily in Yemen.

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c. Although the Saudis have agreed to pay half of an additional two months of the UN operation, the UAR has not replied to the Secretary General's request. U Thant may recommend that the Security Council withdraw the mission if Cairo doesn't ante up.

d. He expects in his forthcoming report to the Council to criticize both sides--the Saudis for their continued aid to the royalists, the UAR for its laggardly withdrawal and its bombing of Saudi villages.

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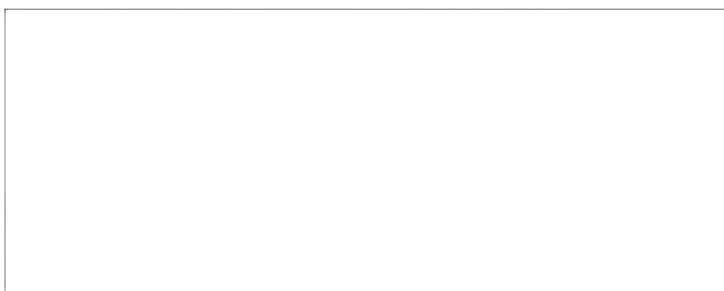
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3. Malaysia

a. Indonesia has stepped up paramilitary operations in northern Borneo.

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c. Ambassador Jones has been instructed to register with Sukarno our very strong disapproval of these tactics.

d. Meanwhile, the Indonesians are stymying the UN opinion survey, which was to get underway today. Djakarta wants a larger number of observers with a broader role than the UK or the UN envisages. The Philippines have been persuaded to go along with the Indonesians on this.

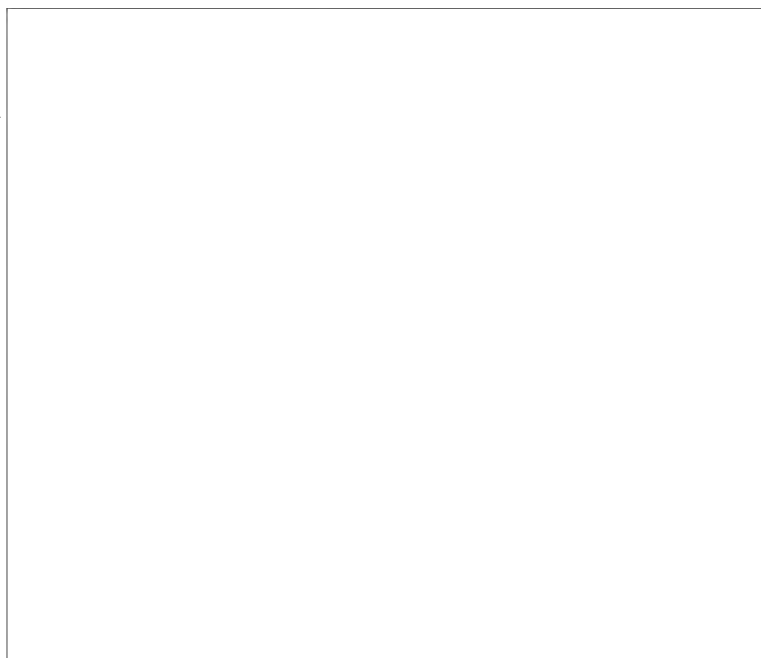
e. U Thant is threatening to pull the UN team out if the bickering on procedure does not stop.



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4. France

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5. Haiti

a. Duvalier is urgently seeking military equipment to replace the many items which proved unserviceable in the recent fighting.

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d. There were earlier stories of Haitian attempts to buy military equipment from France. The French foreign office has denied knowledge of such an attempt.

NOTES

- A. Bolivia President Paz asked yesterday for the resignation of his entire cabinet. His objective was probably to shield certain cabinet officials from congressional hectoring, but he may use the opportunity to replace several ministers who have given his government less than wholehearted support in the controversy with the tin miners. A new cabinet is expected soon.
- B. Colombia The plans of a group of Communist-inspired labor leaders to foment a nation-wide strike next week could come a cropper. The general public, disgruntled with the influence of the Communists in the petroleum industry, has supported the strong line taken by the government to counter their activities.
- C.
- D. Syria-Israel The border was quiet yesterday and some of the heat appeared to be going out of the dispute as both sides asked the Security Council to consider the problem.

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- E. Jordan-USSR Jordan yesterday agreed to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR. King Husayn has been envious of Nasir's success in getting aid from both the US and the USSR and--though he denies it to us--he probably has visions of emulating the Egyptian. The king told Charge Lewis that Jordan would remain staunchly anti-Communist but perhaps this move would help answer charges that his country is a western puppet.
- F. Cuba Cubana plans by mid-September to pick up the last of the three IL-18s it bought from the Soviets



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